

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-06 IO-06 /038 W
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P 311327Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2024
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 05522

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO, OREP
SUBJECT: CODEL WILSON'S VISIT TO NATO

REF: STATE 123510 DTG 152141Z MAY 78

1. CODEL WILSON VISITED USMISSION NATO MAY 27 FOR TWO-HOUR BRIEFING. CODEL INCLUDED CONGRESSMEN CHARLES WILSON, JACK KEMP, ROBIN BEARD, JOHN BRECKINRIDGE, DAVID TREEN, AND ROBERT BADHAM, HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE STAFF MEMBERS, AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ESCORTS.

2. CHARGE, IN WELCOMING CODEL, EXPRESSED AMBASSADOR BENNETT'S REGRETS THAT, DUE TO BEING IN WASHINGTON FOR THE NATO SUMMIT, HE COULD NOT GREET THEM PERSONALLY.

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3. GENERAL WILLIAM A. KNOWLTON, USA, US REPRESENTATIVE ON THE NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE, THEN TOOK THE FLOOR TO DISCUSS THE ROLE OF THE US DELEGATION TO THE MILITARY COMMITTEE. SINCE THE CODEL WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN SALT, SALT-RELATED MATTERS, AND THE REDUCED BLAST/ENHANCED RADIATION (RB/ER) WAR HEAD, GENERAL KNOWLTON EXPLAINED ROLE OF MILITARY COMMITTEE AS A PURELY CONSULTATIVE FORUM ON THESE

SUBJECTS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT SENIOR US OFFICIALS PERIODICALLY BRIEFED NATO COUNTRIES ON SALT AND RB/ER IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL. KNOWLTON ADDED THAT ON SUCH OCCASIONS ARRANGEMENT WAS MADE FOR GENERAL ROWNEY OF OUR SALT DELEGATION TO BRIEF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE ON AN INFORMAL BASIS. KNOWLTON SAID THAT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF ENHANCING NATO'S DEFENSE, HAD SOLIDLY SUPPORTED DEPLOYMENT OF THE RB/ER. DRAWING ON HIS EXPERIENCE AS NATO LAND SOUTH EAST COMMANDER AT IZMIR, WHERE SOME OF THE CODEL HAD MET HIM IN 1977, KNOWLTON RESPONDED FURTHER TO CODEL QUESTIONS REGARDING THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON TURKEY'S DEFENSE EFFORTS OF THE US ARMS EMBARGO. ADDITIONALLY, THERE WAS DISCUSSION OF TURKEY'S LOW PER CAPITA INCOME IN COMPARISON TO MOST OTHER NATO COUNTRIES AND THE TURKISH PERMREP'S RECENT EMPHASIS ON TURKEY'S NEED FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN MAINTAINING CURRENT LEVELS OF DEFENSE.

4. KNOWLTON'S PRESENTATION WAS FOLLOWED BY A PANEL DISCUSSION MARKED PARTICULARLY BY CODEL INTEREST IN SALT AND RELATED MATTERS. PANEL MEMBERS INCLUDED CHARGE; ACTING DEFENSE ADVISOR RADM HUBBARD; POLITICAL OFSICERS MENDELSON AND JONES; COMMANDERS SEXTON AND AUSTIN; AND LTCOL LENTZ. MENDELSON, IN DISCUSSING SALT CONSULTATION AT NATO HEAD-QUARTERS AND ALLIED REACTIONS TO BRIEFINGS HERE BY SENIOR-LEVEL US OFFICIALS, UNDERLINED THAT POLICY IN CONNECTION
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WITH SALT WAS NOT DECIDED AT NATO, BUT THAT ALLIES COULD ASK AND RAISE QUESTIONS. THE CODEL WAS MUCH INTERESTED IN ALLIED PERCEPTIONS OF SALT, INCLUDING ITS IMPACT ON TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND CRUISE MISSILE DEVELOPMENTS, AND IN THEIR REACTIONS TO A CTB. IN THIS REGARD, CHARGE POINTED OUT THAT NATO'S EAST-WEST STUDY REFLECTS THE ALLIED VIEW THAT POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS IN SALT, IN A MANNER COMPATIBLE WITH THE SECURITY OF THE US AND ITS ALLIES, SHOULD BE SEEN AS A MAJOR OBJECTIVE WHICH WOULD HAVE FAVORABLE EFFECT ON DETENTE. FURTHERMORE, THE STUDY CONFIRMS THE CONTINUING VALIDITY OF THE TWO COMPLEMENTARY FUNCTIONS OF THE ALLIANCE, MAINTENANCE OF MILITARY SECURITY AND THE PURSUIT OF DETENTE, WHILE UNDERLINING THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE NECESSARY STEPS TO INSURE AN EFFECTIVE SYSTEM OF DETERRENCE AND DEFENCE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE STEADY MILITARY BUILD-UP BY THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES AND THE ABSENCE OF ADEQUATE ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGREEMENTS.

5. ON THE LONG TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM (LTDP), PANEL MEMBERS ATTEMPTED TO UNDERLINE SCOPE OF PROGRAM AND THE VISIBLY HEIGHTENED LEVEL OF ALLIED COOPERATION STEMMING FROM THIS

AND THE OTHER INITIATIVES PROPOSED BY PRESIDENT CARTER AT LONDON SUMMIT. DISCUSSION ALSO PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY TO HIGHLIGHT SIGNIFICANCE ATTACHED TO CONVENTIONAL FORCE IMPROVEMENT BY ALLIES. MEMBERS OF THE CODEL EXPRESSED THE VIEW, IN CONNECTION WITH THE ANNUAL OVERALL THREE PERCENT REAL INCREASE IN DEFENSE SPENDING TARGET, THAT THE CONGRESS MUST SEE TO IT THAT US APPROPRIATIONS REFLECT THIS GOAL.

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6. AT CONCLUSION, CONGRESSMAN WILSON COMMENTED TO CHARGE THAT DISCUSSION HAD BEEN A "GOOD ONE."

7. COMMENT: IT WAS CLEAR THAT CODEL MEMBERS REMAIN TO BE CONVINCED ABOUT THE ADVANTAGES OF A SALT II AGREEMENT AND CTB. IN THIS CONNECTION, AS INDICATED ABOVE, THEY WERE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE REACTIONS OF OUR ALLIES TOWARDS MAJOR US ARMS CONTROL INITIATIVES. END COMMENT.
WILSON

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